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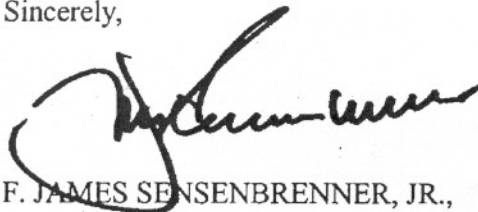
Dear Attorney General:

The Committee has long supported robust funding for state and local first responders. First responders are the most likely to confront a terrorist attack before any Federal official. One pressing issue that first responders and the Federal Government must resolve is the issue of "interoperability."

It is essential that local police, firefighters, and emergency workers are able to exchange voice and data communications, particularly in a crisis. Antiquated equipment, incompatible systems, and a lack of funding are recurring problems adversely affecting effective communication. The Committee believes that first responders should receive Federal support to address this issue in our efforts to prevent, prepare, and respond to terrorist attacks.

Please provide in detail the Department of Justice's efforts to assist state and local first responders with interoperability. Additionally, please describe the Department's efforts to work with other Federal agencies on this issue. Thank you for your time and assistance. If you should have any questions, please contact Beth Sokul, counsel for the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security at 202-225-3926.

Sincerely,



F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.,
Chairman



JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Ranking Member